

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7422

To require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance to encourage depository institutions to establish programs to educate customers at risk of unwittingly becoming money mules.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2020

Ms. GABBARD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance to encourage depository institutions to establish programs to educate customers at risk of unwittingly becoming money mules.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Money Mule Awareness  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Criminals frequently recruit unwitting par-  
2           ticipants to move and hide illicit funds through the  
3           U.S. financial system.

4           (2) The Federal Trade Commission has issued  
5           materials to help educate consumers about money  
6           mule schemes.

7           (3) In April 2020, the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
8           tigation issued a warning and guidance to the public  
9           of money mule schemes exploiting the COVID–19  
10          pandemic.

11          (4) Depository financial institutions can be un-  
12          witting participants in fraudulent transactions by  
13          money mules and should be encouraged to educate  
14          at-risk customers of money mule schemes.

15 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE ON MONEY MULE EDUCATION PRO-**  
16 **GRAMS.**

17          (a) **GUIDANCE.**—The Federal financial regulators  
18          shall, jointly, issue guidance to encourage depository insti-  
19          tutions to establish programs to educate customers at risk  
20          of unwittingly becoming money mules.

21          (b) **CONSULTATION.**—In issuing the guidance re-  
22          quired under subsection (a), the Federal financial regu-  
23          lators shall consult with the Attorney General, the Direc-  
24          tor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director

1 of the United States Secret Service, and the Federal  
2 Trade Commission.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “de-  
5 pository institution”—

6 (A) has the meaning given that term under  
7 section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;  
8 and

9 (B) means a State credit union and a Fed-  
10 eral credit union, as such terms are defined  
11 under section 101 of the Federal Credit Union  
12 Act.

13 (2) FEDERAL FINANCIAL REGULATORS.—The  
14 term “Federal financial regulators” means the  
15 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System,  
16 the Comptroller of the Currency, the Director of the  
17 Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Federal  
18 Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National  
19 Credit Union Administration Board.

20 (3) MONEY MULE.—The term “money mule”  
21 means a person who transfers illegally acquired  
22 money on behalf of or at the direction of another.

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